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COMPANY : USPTO, Before Final TC1600  
FAX No. : 703-872-9306  
No of PAGES : 7 (including cover sheet)  
FROM : Van Dyke & Associates, P.A.  
DATE : March 7, 2003  
RE : First Preliminary Amendment, U.S. Serial No. 08/554,424

MAR 10 2003

**OFFICIAL** GROUP 1600

Please find the following attached and part of this transmission:

1. First Preliminary Amendment for 19338CD-CPA2, U.S. Serial No. 08/554,424 (4 pages); and attached thereto
2. Version with Markings to Show Changes Made (2 pages).

Yours truly,  
Van Dyke & Associates, P.A.

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36/A

Caon 3-11-03

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Van Der Ploeg et al.

Application No.: 08/554,424

Filed: 11/6/1995

Title: PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING PARA  
CATION CHANNEL MODULATORS

Attorney Docket No.: 19338CD-CPA2

Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: Nolan, Patrick J.

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 24 has been amended as follows:

24. (Amended) A method of identifying a ligand that modulates a *Drosophila* membrane voltage-activated sodium channel, which comprises:

- fi
- (a) expressing an isolated *Drosophila* voltage-activated sodium channel *para*, and expressing an isolated *Drosophila* voltage-activated putative beta subunit, *tipE*, in a first *Xenopus* oocyte host cell, wherein said expressing of *para* and said expressing of *tipE* occur after coinjection of *para* and *tipE* RNA, wherein said *para* RNA is encoded by the DNA molecule as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, and wherein the host cell resultingly expresses a voltage-activated sodium current that is tetrodotoxin sensitive;
  - (b) contacting the first host cell with said ligand;
  - (c) measuring the resulting voltage-activated current; and